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February 13, 2004

19270 U.S. PTO  
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U.S. PTO MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

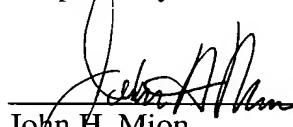
Re: Application of Jean Gilbert BOULET  
A DRILL STRING ELEMENT HAVING AT LEAST ONE BEARING  
ZONE, A DRILL STRING, AND A TOOL JOINT  
Assignee: S.M.F. INTERNATIONAL  
Our Ref: Q-79840

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto is the application identified above including twenty-seven (27) pages of specification including nineteen (19) claims, an Abstract of the Disclosure and seven (7) sheets of formal drawing. Also attached is the certified priority document. **The filing fee, together with the executed Declaration and Power of Attorney, will be submitted at a later date with the other required fees.**

Priority is claimed from February 20, 2003, based on French Application No. 0302096.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Date: February 13, 2004